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J. McFarlan

AN
INAUGURAL ESSAY,
ON THE USE OF
ARTIFICIAL DRAINS,
IN THE
PREVENTION AND CURE OF DISEASE,
Submitted to the Examination
OF THE
REV. J. ANDREWS, D. D. PROVOST
(PRO TEMPORE.)
THE
TRUSTEES & MEDICAL PROFESSORS
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
ON THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF APRIL, 1806.
FOR
THE DEGREE
OF
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY DEVEREUX J. CLAIBORNE,
OF VIRGINIA,
HONORARY MEMBER OF THE PHILADELPHIA
MEDICAL SOCIETY.

"Durum: Sed levius fit patientia
Quicquid corrigere est nefas."

HOR.

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1806.

1806

TO

JOHN CLAIBORNE, M. D.

OF VIRGINIA.

Dear Sir,

IN prefixing your name to this essay, I have only fulfilled a duty, which every pupil owes to his preceptor ; but, should accuse myself of ingratitude, were I to pass over obligations of a superior nature unnoticed, as it was from your friendly councils and generous exertions, that I learnt to appreciate the superiority of intellectual acquirements ; but for your liberal and disinterested zeal for my welfare, science would, to me, have been an empty and unmeaning sound. Under your tuition, I have had the most extensive opportunity of improvement, in that profession so successfully pursued by yourself, and to which my future life will be devoted. I feel indebted to you for the basis of those principles which are to conduct me in the arduous, though pleasing task, of alleviating the distresses of humanity.

Before I conclude, permit me to assure you, that my gratitude will be permanent as my existence, and that the recollection of your beneficence, will always excite in me, sentiments of the highest esteem.

That you may long live useful in public, amiable in private life, and in the most perfect enjoyment of that health, which you have so abundantly conferred on others, is the fervent prayer of

Your grateful Pupil,
And affectionate Brother,

THE AUTHOR.

TO

PHILIP CLAIBORNE, Esq.
OF VIRGINIA.

THIS Essay is also inscribed, not only as a token of fraternal regard, but also in consideration of many valuable acts of friendship conferred by him, on his

affectionate Brother,

THE AUTHOR.

INAUGURAL ESSAY.

PHYSICIANS at an early period of medical science placed the causes of disease in the fluids, which they supposed became vitiated: impressed with this opinion, we shall not be surprised that their first indication was to apply such remedies, as they presumed most likely to answer the particular form of disorder, which their patients laboured under; and as they supposed the fluids productive of disorder under different forms, we cannot be surprised at their pursuit of specifics, adapted to their variable states.

Hence, may we date the æra of those various, and I must add barbarous names, which did so long, and do even to this day, disparage the writings of physicians; a specimen of which we find in most medical books; as cholagogues, hydragogues, and a variety of other medicines, possessing in themselves no specific powers, peculiarly entitling them, the honor of dischargers of water bile, &c.

I do not wish to deny, what daily experience plainly points out as incontestible, viz. That these effects are not the result of certain substances, internally exhibited, but would be understood as denying the propriety of attaching certain invariable effects to any one medicine; for we are convinced by daily observation of the failure of our remedies, in inducing the same effects, even in one case, that they do in another, owing to a variety of contingent circumstances resulting from our ignorance, in all cases of the exact laws of the animal œconomy, in various and perfectly dissimilar constitutions, together with the uncertainty of the modus operandi of any one remedy.

Thus, opium is universally entitled a medicine possessing a soporose power, and an alleviator of pain; but who acquainted with its administration in different states of the system, has not known it defeat these intentions. Allum which is generally one of our most certain astringents, will, in many cases prove purgative. In support of the above opinions, I will notice an observation of Professor Barton's.* There are not says this acute observer more than one or two medicines in the *materia medica*, of whose entire operation we are certain, when internally exhibited: hence we see the futility of crying

* Notes from Doctor Barton's Last, on Mat. Med

out remedies! remedies! when in truth we have remedies enough if we knew how to use them, and could command their operation.

Having endeavoured thus far to point out what I deem the impropriety of attaching certain specific qualities to any medicine or class of medicines, I will turn to my immediate subject.

Among evacuants of vitiated fluids, so highly extoled by the ancients, we should indeed be surprised had they neglected the use of artificial drains in the cure of disease, more particularly as they were attentive observers of nature; hence they early noted the fact that eruptions on the skin and ulcers on different parts of the body, frequently cured chronic disease; an instance of the latter, not to go further we find in Van Swieten's Com. on Boerhaave's Aphorisms; it was a case of chronic rheumatism which the author mentions as having been cured by an ulceration of the feet.

But the use of issues or artificial drains, were known a long time prior to Boerhaave, as we find them mentioned by Galen, Forrestus, Rammazzini, and many other ancient authors, as valuable remedies in the prevention and cure of disease.

After premising thus much of the history of Issues, I shall next enquire into their modus operandi on the human body.

I shall divide this subject into three distinct heads, according as they act by,

1st. Revulsion, or attracting excitement from parts essential to life, to parts less essential.

2nd. By their power as Evacuants, and

3rd. By inducing an artificial weak part, and thereby transferring the disease to that part.

THESE effects frequently do succeed each other, but they may be distinct, or under different circumstances, one may be more obvious than another; a blister for instance applied for a short time induces the first, and if not removed, the second and third effects take place in process of time.

Having proceeded thus far in my subject I shall next enquire into their utility as Prophylactics of disease.

The utility of issues in the prevention of disease, is by no means of modern date, as may be seen from the writings of the ancients, and likewise from the following quotations.

Querceton the Armenian, in his alexiacus pestes, says “ the medical man whose office it is to

attend on the sick, admirably preserves himself by an issue." Hoffman honors them with the title of Egregia, Prophylactica, and Diemerbroek of Præstantissima Subsidia. Sinnertus supposed them a preservative against the Plague, his words are these: "Et cum fontanellæ etiam excrementios humores sensim e corpore tollant, atque hinc apparatus ad pestem suscipiendam deinant, et eæ tempore pestis utiles sunt."

Doctor Boerhaave for the bite of a mad dog, advises a suppuration to be kept up for six months, and Celsus by cupping and applying the actual cautery, supposed the poison might be extracted. * This method is pursued by modern Practitioners, no doubt with success, as I myself have seen good effects from it, in one or two cases of this nature.

As I have endeavoured to show, that the ancients were prejudiced in favor of issues as a means of preventing contagious diseases, it will be necessary to enquire into the action of contagion in the production of disease, and in doing this, I must assume as data, facts I believe generally admitted by modern Practitioners, viz,

1st. The contagion which produces disease, is received into the system where it may remain ap-

* With this difference, that the moderns have discarded the use of the actual, for the potential cautery.

parently latent, though it is at the same time acting the part of a constant stimulus on the excitability, and thereby wearing down and expending the excitement of the system, until it induces debility; at this time the least exciting cause applied, will generally induce diseased action. This being granted, we necessarily infer, that any means of eliminating this contagion will have a tendency to prevent its ill consequences. Accordingly, we are advised by most Authors to use small bleedings, to keep the bowels and other emunctories open, the first by diet and gentle laxatives, the second by adapting our clothing to the various changes of the atmosphere, &c. These means are certainly proper, and our chief dependance in general practice, though liable to much hazard, because it is for the most part, out of our power, to command either of the above remedies so completely as we would wish, and hence we may induce a predisposition to disease by the very means intended to prevent its approach. It is also as certainly admitted as a law of the animal œconomy, that disease will be determined to that particular part of the body, where debility is greatest; hence the attacks of phthisis pulmonalis, are more common after the lungs have been debilitated by an ill cured catarrh.

That foreign matters and superfluous fluids, will pass to such parts as are most debilitated by

disease, is proved by the case of a Lady in this City, who was affected with a large cancerous ulcer : if she at any time eat the smallest quantity of animal food, (even soup,) the discharge from the ulcer became so offensive that she was obliged to desist from its use entirely.* In this case I presume the animal food was too stimulating for the highly excitable state of her system; hence it was an attempt of the system to throw it off by the ulcer as the safest drain.

Garlic has also been known to pass off by an issue, so as to impart its diffusive odour unto the discharge, hence the necessity of pursuing rigidly an antiphlogistic course in all internal abcesses, in their early stage. Again, that this determination of fluids does take place from a stronger to a weaker part, I infer further from the fact that we often see people with weak lungs fall victims to consumptions, as soon as a customary discharge ceases ; hence we see the reason why so many females, annually die of this disease, from suppressed catamenia, and of males from the premature cure of sore legs, instances of which I myself have witnessed: and hence also it has been observed, few men livelong who have been suddenly cured by an operation of old fistula in ano. A case of this last, it has been my misfortune to witness, in an old school fellow which I must relate.

He was a Gentleman whose family were predispo-

* Note from Doctor Rush's Lect.

sed to phthisis pulmonalis, though he himself was remarkably healthy, and bid fair to escape his hereditary legacy, until he was affected with fistula in ano. An operation was delayed for some time, until his system became both debilitated by and habituated to this unnatural discharge. It was however, at length performed, his disease cured, and he was soon after seized with symptoms of phthisis, which in a few months terminated his existence in the bloom of youth. Might not this have been prevented by an artificial drain established previous to the operation? Here we see the propriety of Mr. Bell's caution against the operation, till we induce a drain by an issue.

The inhabitants of hot climates are subject to diseases of the liver from the peculiar action of heat upon this viscus inducing debility, and hence the accidental suppressions of perspiration appear to fall on this organ and occasion disease. In our climate we are more apt to have diarrhoeas, dysenteries, choleras, &c. from similar causes.

Having shewn that disease has a determination to the weakest parts of our bodies, also that foreign matters may be, and indeed are conveyed from the system by means of an ulcer, I shall proceed with my enquiry and adduce some facts in favour of artificial drains, which act by keeping up a discharge

of a moderate quantity of pus, too small to induce debility. Such drains may in this manner carry off the causes of disease, whether of a contagious nature, or from a superabundance of fluids inducing plethora and its concomitant diseases.

The ancients long since noted the fact, that people with issues or ulcers were much less liable to contagious diseases (as the plague) than others, and have advised their use as prophylactics of this disease ; but it is not my intention to find out authorities for ancient customs or remedies, as the nature of this essay would by so doing swell to an unpardonable length, and far exceed the limits marked out by its author : I shall therefore notice such facts as occur to me, as most important, and leave the ancient opinions to men possessed of more time, greater curiosity, and better talents. The following facts, tend greatly to prove their utility in the prevention of disease.

We are informed, that Doctor Hodges was preserved from the plague in London, by an ulcer on his leg, which he observed to discharge more during the rage of that epidemic than before, and if I mistake not, the colour of the discharge was altered.

Doctor Huxham says, “ during the prevalence of the pestilential fever in the year 1738, blisters

discharged an immense quantity of fluids, and were healed with difficulty.*

I have been informed by a Gentleman of my acquaintance, on whom I implicitly rely, that many young Gentlemen imputed their escape from the yellow fever of Charlestown, South Carolina, during its prevalence in that place, to profuse discharges induced by gonorrhœa.

Some remarkable cases of the utility of issues, in the prevention of bilious disease, are recorded on the testimony of a Doctor Beach of New York, for which, see a letter from a Mr. Stevens to Doctor Barton, and inserted by him in his Medical Journal.† It appears from this letter, that out of a number of persons affected with bilious diseases in a particular place, but three escaped, and each of these had a discharge of some kind.

We know from the testimony of many authors, that profuse sweating is the consequence of contagion acting on the system. The ingenious professor of institutes in this university, confirms this opinion in the narrative of his distresses during the yellow fever in 1793, his words are these, “about this time my night sweats became so profuse and offensive,

* Hulaham on Epidem. Vol. 1.

† Vol. 1. part 2. No. 13.

that I was forced to draw the bed covering close to my neck to defend myself from the smell.”*

By riding in the night air he was seized with a chill, and the yellow fever was the consequence. In this case we cannot doubt, but that the contagion was passing off by sweat, as the cold night air by suppressing this evacuation instantly induced the disease ; from this we plainly discover the propriety of cautioning against exposure to night air during the prevalence of an epidemic.

From what has been already said, the most rigid sceptic can, I think, no longer doubt, that the system does in many cases attempt to discharge noxious matters, by exciting an increased action in some excreting system of the body, and as it is in most cases, unable to answer this salutary intention, from the uncertainty of her discharges, it is the duty of art, to find out and apply means more safe and certain, than her own precarious operations. No remedy appears so probable to answer this grand purpose, as an artificial drain, which may operate by all of the three ways above mentioned, viz. revulsion, artificial debility, and more especially affording a safe outlet for the noxious contagion to pass.

* Medical Enquiries, and Observations.

This does not appear to be the case with any internal remedies, as we are unfortunately unable to command their operation, owing to two good reasons, which have been assigned in the first part of this essay.

An artificial drain, is on the other hand for the most part completely in our power, as we can, diminish and vary its discharge at pleasure, and thus render it one of our most valuable remedies, both in the prevention and cure of disease.

It certainly does promise to be eminently useful, in our native pest (the Yellow Fever) and I do sincerely hope, some practitioner of this City, will be induced to try its efficacy in cases of yellow fever, should it again become epidemic.

Having thus far, attempted to establish the utility of issues in the prevention of contagious disease, which I have dwelt the longer on, from a firm belief of their being too much neglected by modern practitioners, I shall leave this part of my subject, after a few remarks on their utility, in the prevention of all diseases arising from plethora, or misplaced excitement as phthisis, apoplexy, vertigo, epilepsy, gout, and a variety of chronic diseases proceeding from the above causes, and which the limits of this essay, will not allow me to treat of very particularly.

I have said above, that the cure of sore legs and other habitual discharges too suddenly, would in many cases induce phthisis pulmonalis. This is not the only form of disease induced by suppression of chronic discharges, as a variety of others will be induced, according to the particular susceptibility of any part of our systems, for its reception, as Hydrocephalus in children, consumption about puberty and till thirty five, and apoplexy, palsy, gout, and many others in old people.

To render the above observations more plain and perspicuous, it will be necessary to assign the reason for these occurrences.

Such chronic discharges, were at first an effort of the system, to throw off a superabundance of fluids, and by this means guard against plethora with its incidental effects, or else, they are merely accidental circumstances, from wounds, bruises, &c. In either case such is the influence of habit over the human body, that things at first accidental, will in a short time become necessary to its health; and hence the suppression of this habitual discharge inadvertently, will induce a plethoric state of the system, and this plethora falling on that particular part where debility is most obvious, at once induces disease or irregular action. Again, in infancy according to Doctor Cullen, there is more blood deter-

mined to the head, for the purpose of its evolution previous to the other parts of the body: hence we see the reason why the improper cure of *tenia capitis*, often induces the hydrocephalus in that age; from puberty to thirty five years of age, more is sent to the thorax and lungs, and hence we shall be more apt to have acute and chronic pneumonies; after this we have, apoplexy, gout, &c. In all these cases, the judicious and timely application of an issue, will tend greatly to prevent the ill consequences above mentioned; in proof of their utility in gout, Doctor Rush has politely informed me of a case, in which the patient imputed his exemption from the disease for seven years to an issue; this I think an important fact, as it is a very painful disease, and will keep pace with every species of luxury; the prevention of its attack or recurrence would be highly pleasing to the world in general. To conclude what I have to say on this subject, so fully am I convinced of the utility of artificial drains in the last mentioned diseases, that I should feel little hesitation in advising them in most cases of this nature, when an habitual or hereditary disposition was prevalent in my patient.

Does not nature plainly demand a remedy of this kind, when she induces hemorrhages to prevent plethora, diarrhoeas to prevent bilious diseases, sweats, and other evacuations, to discharge noxious conta-

gion from the system? The answer is obvious; let it not however be supposed, I am contending for the powers of nature to cure diseases in all cases: I am far from thinking her adequate to the task, yet, that she does in many cases point out a salutary mode of prevention cannot be denied, for surely physicians have learnt many valuable hints, in the exhibition of their remedies by observing her operations, and we may justly attribute the progress of the healing art to observation and experience.

CURE OF DISEASES.*

Diseases, have been with great propriety divided into acute and chronic, but as the first run their course in a short time, so I suppose our remedy, as too slow in its operation, not adapted to this state, though its efficacy will be obvious, in all those chronic cases where an evacuation of this nature is required as in apoplexy, epilepsy, chronic headache, insanities, chronic diseases of the eyes, consumption, diseases from replete eruptions, as *Tenia Capitis*, suppressed natural and artificial discharges, inducing plethora and its concomitant diseases.

Besides those diseases already enumerated, they have been used successfully in many others, which neither inclination or the limits of this essay auth-

* The term Diseases, is used in conformity to custom

rise me to treat of very particularly, though I shall mention some of them.

In support of the utility of artificial drains, we have numerous facts recorded by writers, both ancient and modern. Hippocrates long since observed, that sore legs were highly useful in vehement disorders of the lungs. *Huxham on Epidemics** speaking of Peripneumony, says “ If there is too great defluxion on the lungs, it should be diverted and drained off by Epispastics.”

Doctor Morton, speaking of Issues in an original pulmonary consumption, says, “ Issues in the arms, or between the shoulders, are serviceable for abating the quantity of serous liquor of the blood, and consequently for comforting the brain and nerves, and tempering the animal spirits, the extinguishing the hectical flame, and to the prevention and cure of consumption.”

Doctor Nicholas Robinson, says, “ where the lungs were oppressed with a ropy tough phlegm, or matter that lies deep, and requires great labour in pumping up, I advised a couple of issues or setons to be made in the arms, or in each side of the breast ; or between the shoulders just below the nape of the neck ; and it is impossible to conceive the benefit I

* Vol. 1. page 75.

have known to accrue from those issues, especially when they made a free discharge."

Sir John Pringle says, "I can freely recommend from repeated trials, the use of setons or issues in the side of the part that is mostly affected."

I have been informed, by a fellow student, Mr. Baer of Maryland, of a case of confirmed phthisis pulmonalis, cured by a large abcess on the patients leg, the consequence of an accident.

Doctor Rush, in his lectures informs us ; that he knew a case of Consumption, cured by an issue, and that abcesses under the arms had cured the disease. These facts are important, when we consider its incurable nature.

The use of issues, must be obvious in phthisis pulmonalis, as this disease arises from a variety of causes, most of which tend to debilitate the lungs, or this debility may be, and often is congenial ; in either case, in consequence of a fever, or great and long continued stimulus, acting on the general system, or of cold obstructing the perspiratory vessels, an unnatural afflux of fluids takes place to the lungs, in consequence of which, we have obstructions, inflammation, and its concomitant effects.

The cure of this disease will depend upon equalising the excitement of the whole system, and deriving the peculiar determination from the lungs, to parts less essential to life; accordingly our first remedies are bleeding, blistering, and a salivation. The two last must act by inducing revulsion, and by creating an artificial drain, and consequent debility of the part, by which means, an afflux of fluids takes place from the lungs to the superficies, and thereby enables the former to regain their natural health and tone. To answer these important purposes, might we not use with advantage a large issue? Do we not find most authors, sanctioning this practice, by counseling us to form a perpetual blister, as near the seat of the disease as possible?

Directed by these principles, I have myself contributed to the interest of society, by preserving the life of an useful citizen, almost exhausted with symptoms of Consumption, supervening an ill cured pneumonia.

Apoplexy is generally the consequence of plethora, which might be obviated, no doubt, by a plentiful discharge from a seton in the neck. Dr. Cullen advises its use to people disposed, or subject to this disease.

There is a chronic headach often attended with vertigo, which may (I think, from the follow-

ing fact, taken from Mr. Hunter,) be cured by an artificial drain. He informs us, " that a Mr. Foote, was relieved of headach's of long standing, by the loss of a leg, but after this was cured, he died of an apoplexy." In this case we cannot doubt, but his cure was owing to the discharge from his leg. So soon as this ceased, he died of a disease of the same part, and purely for the want of an artificial drain: hence the propriety of their use, previous to the sudden cure of any habitual discharge.

Doctor Wistar politely informed me, that he had used our remedy in four cases of insania, and in two of them, the patients received immense benefit. In these cases they might have acted by abstracting unnatural excitement from the brain to the sore, and thus have cured or suspended the disease.

I have little to say respecting the use of artificial drains, in chronic diseases of the eyes, as the practice is well known to be highly useful; even the most ignorant peasant, whose mind is never employed in reasoning about causes and operations, will insert what he calls a rowel under his horses eye, and frankly inform you, that it is the best thing he ever saw used in such cases.

Epilepsy, is a disease arising from a variety of causes, many of which still lie concealed in the dark

recesses of nature, and consequently render it too often incurable. But there are cases of its being cured, by artificial drains, several of which we find recorded by Doctor Donald Monroe.*

Bergius could not cure one case, till he inserted a seton in his patients neck, and then succeeded.

We are informed by Professor Rush, that issues have cured a case arising from the sudden disappearance of an eruption. What would be the effect of the juice of the rhus radicans, applied to the part formerly affected with eruption in such cases?

They appear to be especially adapted to such cases, as are attended with plethora, partial excitement of the brain, or such as are the consequence of repelled eruptions.

In chronic rheumatism of long duration, Doctor Sydenham, says, "after blood-letting, issues in the leg will carry off the disease."†

In scrophula of the neck, attended with running ulcers, which are difficult to cure, I think they promise to be highly useful from the following fact. A negro boy aged 13, who had long had ulcers of this kind on his neck, and which appeared impossi-

* See his treatise on Mic. Dis. page 258, & 259.

† Wal. Edit. vol. 2. page 400.

ble to cure, accidentally received a burn on the abdomen just below the umbilicus, which was succeeded by a profuse discharge of pus; during this time, the ulcers on the neck readily cicatrized, but recurred so soon as the burn was healed; might not a drain established on a convenient part, act efficaciously, by suspending or diverting diseased action from the neck, and thereby allow our medicines a better chance of producing beneficial effects?

From the above facts, I think artificial drains may be beneficially, and in most cases successfully used in all chronic states of disease, arising from suppressed evacuations, or attended with too much general excitement, or particular local congestion of any of the viscera, after V. S. and other depleting remedies have been used.

The use of artificial drains in cases of distorted spine, *alone*, (excited by means of caustic) ought to entitle the remedy to the highest respect, as it has even caused a new formation of bone, when other remedies had left the poor patient nothing to hope, but a speedy release from his earthly habitation. A case of this kind has been cured in the Pennsylvania hospital, very recently, or at least rendered supportable.

To the politeness of Professor Wistar, I am indebted, not only for the above observation, but much more useful information on this subject both publicly and privately received, as he once introduced to his class, a young subject who had been thus relieved.

Upon the whole, the effect of our remedy appears in some cases to have considerable analogy to the effect of ptyalism, induced by mercury, as they both act by translating disease from vital, to parts less essential to health ; and as drains, though issues are certainly far preferable, as they induce a greater discharge than mercury, and are attended with no danger and little inconvenience to the patient ; nor do I think this last has any specific action in the cure of phthisis, epilepsy, &c. though it may, and does undoubtedly act specifically in the cure of lues venerea.

Thus I finish this sketch of the application of artificial drains, in the prevention and cure of some chronic states of disease ; and have merely noticed some of the most important cases in which they promise success. It yet remains for me to specify the different means of exciting these drains, the parts most proper for their insertion, and lastly the means of obviating the injurious effects resulting from drying them up too hastily. I shall include all these under one head, referring to authors for the operative part.

The method of inserting these drains, has been divided by Mr. Bell, into four distinct heads ; and as his arrangement, I believe is unexceptionable, there can surely be no impropriety in adopting it. These are the following,

First, By means of the perpetual blister.

Secondly, By an incision with a scalpel or lancet, sufficiently long and deep for the insertion of one or more foreign bodies, as peas.

Thirdly, By caustic, either solid or in form of paste. and

Fourthly, By passing a skein of silk or thread through the skin, and cellular substance, and leaving it there : hence its name seton.

Each of these, may in different circumstances, be most proper and convenient ; thus a perpetual blister appears best suited to diseases of the thorax and arms ; setons may perhaps be preferable for the neck and sides, as forming a smaller sore and being less troublesome in their operation : caustic appears most adapted to cases of curved spine ; and lastly, small incisions filled with peas, to the extremities, were they are easily retained by bandages

We are also directed by Mr. Bell, not to insert them directly over a bone thinly covered, over a tendon, near a large blood vessel or nerve, nor upon the belly of a muscle ; but to select a place where we shall have plenty of cellular substance to protect the subjacent parts.

The means of obviating any injurious consequences, which may result from drying up too suddenly an old drain, are, first, frequent and small bleedings, low diet, the occasional use of laxatives, and gentle exercise. Some have advised a salivation, and there is no doubt that it may be serviceable, but in most cases I deem it by no means necessary.

By these means properly persisted in for a sufficient time, all danger from the suppression of the discharge may be obviated, and after a while they may be safely discontinued if the patient returns to his original health.

I have now brought my enquiry to an end, and have only to regret my inability to do justice to a subject so interesting, and yet so much neglected ; if however, this humble attempt of mine should be the means of exciting the enquiry of some man more qualified to do it justice than myself, my purpose will be fully answered, but if it should be deemed an

useless enquiry, I at least shall have two great consolations, which are, first, the consciousness of having discharged the duty I owe to my preceptors, and lastly that its errors and imperfections will shortly be concealed by the certain and immutable hand of time.



